

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE****(Committee of the Whole)****Agenda****Thursday, March 20, 2014**

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>Agenda – March 20, 2014</u>	Adopt
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
3-6	Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - March 5, 2014	Receive
7-18	Regional District of Bulkley- Nechako (RDBN)/ Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)/ Forest Industry Representatives Meeting Minutes - March 5, 2014	Receive
19-20	Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - November 7, 2013	Receive
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
21	Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer - Followup – Motions as Suggested by Mr. Al Gorley	Recommendation (Page 20)
22-26	Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer - BC Oil & Gas Commission	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
27-28	Omineca Beetle Action Coalition BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review Discussion Backgrounder	Receive
29-40	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Presentation to OBAC – Mountain Pine Beetle and BC's Forests	Receive
41-43	Truck LoggerBC – Fall 2013 – Area-Based Tenure: Its History and Its Future in BC	Receive
44-45	Wildfire Management Branch – The 2014 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative Program Guides	Receive

SPECIAL IN-CAMERA MEETING MOTION

In accordance with Section 90 (1)(c) and 2(b) of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako that matters pertaining to Labour relations or other employee relations (hiring forestry professional) and (OBAC confidential documentation), including communications necessary for that purpose must be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee of the Whole)**Wednesday, March 5, 2014**

PRESENT: Chairperson Gerry Thiessen

Directors Carman Graf
Tom Greenaway
Bill Holmberg
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Jerry Petersen
Ralph Roy
Stoney Stoltenberg

Directors Absent Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Stephen Freeman, Electoral Area "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake
Luke Strimbold, Village of Burns Lake

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.**CORRESPONDENCE****Correspondence** Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director MacDougall**F.C.2014-1-1** "That the Forestry Committee receive the following correspondence:

-RDBN Submission to FLNRO re: Visual Quality Objectives/Constraints;
-FLNRO Nadina Discussion Notes re Meeting with RDBN – October 23, 2013;
-Meeting Notes – Minister Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations/RDBN – December 5, 2013;
-Chair's Notes re: Policy Paper on Forestry- June 6, 2013;
-UBCM Resolutions re: Forestry."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEMS

How does RDBN get more involved in operational planning (ie. Wildfire Mitigation/ long term development (RDBN Planning considerations)? How does RDBN engage with all stakeholders to the benefit of our communities? How does the RDBN get return regarding specific resources in our region?

Chair Thiessen welcomed Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc. In the past, Mr. Gorley was an Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests and also was Chair of the Forest Practices Board.

Mr. Gorley spoke of developing a role for local governments in the decisions of industry and the provincial government. He mentioned that provincial governments layout the perimeters and objectives and not the operations. Local governments are wanting to have a role in objectives and setting broad perimeters.

The role of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and license holders in regard to timber supply was discussed. Forestry is the backbone of the Province and core of the communities in the region, it is a renewable energy and constant sustainable economy for communities. Forestry requires attention and commitment to continue to be the backbone and priority of the Province of B.C. Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) is overshadowing the need to address the issues occurring in forestry in the province.

Directors Holmberg and Miller spoke of the diverse group of people that attended the meeting in Houston on February 28, 2014 with the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Brought forward for discussion at the meeting were the issues facing Houston and the region with the sawmill closure of Houston Forest Products and the reallocation of fibre between West Fraser Timber and Canfor Corporation. Discussion took place regarding the loss of the social license to oversee the forest industry and lack of oversight on forest licenses.

Comments were made regarding the large amount of monies that were provided to the Province from the stumpage in the region. The Morice Timber Supply Review is now being planned for release in the third quarter of 2014. The issues facing Houston are different in comparison to the Village of Burns Lake regarding the rebuilding of Babine Forest Products or the issues that faced the District of Mackenzie in the past. Burns Lake and Mackenzie's sawmills are operational, Houston Forest Products is shutting down permanently.

Director MacDougall brought forward concerns regarding the huge cuts in the Forest Districts and the increase to cuts when there are no solid numbers to indicate what timber, green or dead, is actually available. He spoke of licensees partitioning cuts amongst themselves and moving cuts from TFL's (Tree Farm Licence) to other areas to take advantage of what is available elsewhere.

Discussion regarding the role of the provincial government in its mandate to manage forests and the need for accountability for forests was brought forward. The possibility of future shutdowns of more sawmills in the region was discussed. The importance of being proactive vs reactive regarding the timber supply was discussed.

The impact to FLNRO of the core review currently being conducted by the provincial government was discussed. Mr. Gorley indicated that should local government request a review it needs to be very focused and clear as to what the local government wants answers to.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding partnering with First Nations communities to move forward similar concerns.

Comments were made regarding the possibility of developing a free market place to assist in moving forward a strong forest industry. The importance of industry being local leaders, planners and community partners needs to be a priority to assist in building healthy communities. Partnerships developed between communities and industry would benefit both communities and industry. Director Holmberg spoke of the District of Houston's meetings with Canfor to develop open dialogue and communication. Director Holmberg also spoke of the importance of having a variety of different operations to utilize fibre such as Pleasant Valley Remanufacturing Ltd. They currently employ 112 people utilizing scrap lumber for remanufacturing. Director Holmberg mentioned that there are challenges in acquiring scrap wood due to agreements in place to remove the scrap wood to locations in Prince George. Other smaller operations in the region face issues with being able to acquire enough Category 2 wood for remanufacturing. The importance of community and regional collaboration with the provincial government would provide the opportunity to better serve the communities, region and provincial government. The importance and benefit of small scale salvage operations are now missing from the overall plan.

Director MacDougall spoke of the effect that appurtenance had on the District of Fort St. James and similar small communities. He mentioned that 70% of the cut in the Fort St. James area are licensees that are not part of the community and it is very difficult to engage them when there is no ability to provide input.

The removal of fibre along the northwest transmission line and the high cost to take the fibre to sawmills to process was brought forward. Due to the high cost, the fibre was destroyed by burning it. The provincial government was responsible for the managing of fibre along the northwest transmission line. Concerns were brought forward regarding undervaluing of timber and the assumption that the only value is the stumpage rate. The value of the timber at end market far surpasses the value from the stumpage rate. There needs to be clear decision making at the provincial government level as to what Ministry is responsible for the removal and utilization of all fibre along transmission lines or LNG pipelines. Discussion took place regarding making the fibre removal from right of ways being part of the Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC).

Mr. Gorley characterized forestry as a broken covenant. In the past there was an understanding that industry and communities would get an equal share. It seems as though this has been broken. The Provincial Government is responsible for providing the framework to manage the forests and now there is a broken covenant involving tenure and responsibility to local communities. The need for "healthy communities is a healthy industry" does not encompass the entire picture. One of higher level governments' priorities is to serve the public's interest and that may be through a healthy and competitive industry. When the provincial government removed themselves from communities, the public no longer had support from the provincial government regarding issues.

The role and interests of local communities relative to their forests is different than the provincial interest. Local governments, collectively, working with First Nations, may be able to move forward the importance of local input as they have a direct vested interest in their forests.

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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)/Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN/Forestry Industry Representatives Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

- The meeting is occurring due to a desire to have a relationship between industry, local government and provincial representatives to address the issues being faced in the region;
- Clarity to understand if there is agreement on the problem and is there a potential fix;
- What can be fixed locally?
- What needs to be fixed by the Premier and/or Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations?
- Can it be influenced and how?
- Depending on the length of the list - prioritize;
- There may be a need to develop policy proposals;
- Move forward to the Union of B.C. Municipalities and the Provincial Government.

It is important to continue to make forestry a top priority and develop constructive dialogue between industry, local government and FLNRO. It is also necessary to have constructive dialogue with the provincial government.

The RDBN had a 97% response from regional FLNRO offices, industry and community forests to receive RDBN Forestry Committee Agendas thus being a good start for engagement and dialogue.

Director Miller spoke of changes made in Finland in the past, wherein they went from being suppliers of fibre to whomever, to being forest managers. Managing the forest for the best possible outcomes for the forests was their goal, thus providing an example to others.

Director Miller indicated that it would be beneficial, to develop at the meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m., a commitment from stakeholders to work toward making forestry better locally. Understanding roles and responsibilities of each agency and organization and the importance of working together and not in isolation would also be a key development. Gail Chapman, CAO mentioned the benefit of identifying key issues to work on collectively and to include First Nations communities.

Discussion took place regarding the diversity of the region and the different desires and characteristics of each community throughout the region. Working groups may be a benefit to address very task specific issues, but due to the diversity of the region it is important to have the group work together through transparent dialogue to develop a clear mandate.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

F.C.2014-1-2

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:34 p.m."

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



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**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN)/Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)/Forest Industry Representatives**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Vineyard Church, Burns Lake, B.C., 457 Highway 16 (Blue Church)

Facilitated by RDBN Chair Bill Miller

Attendance: Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc.
Terry Lazruk, Canfor
Tan Calhoun, West Fraser
Larry Gardner, West Fraser
Mike Dunbar, West Fraser
Daniella Oake, Babine Forest Products
Richard Vossen, Babine Forest Products
Kalin Urich, Conifex
JP. Wenger, KDL Group
David Watt, L&M Lumber
Darwyn Koch, Sinclair
Klaus Posselt, Tahtsa Timber
Paul Heito, Vanderhoof Specialty Woods
Frederick Clarke, Babine Lake Community Forest Society
Sonia Clarke, Babine Lake Community Forest Society
Kerry Martin, B.L. Community Forest
Frank Varga, B.L. Community Forest
Bill Golding, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest
Lori Borth, FLNRO
Laura Bolster, FLNRO
Linda Currie, FLNRO
Jevan Hanchard, FLNRO
Diane Mackay, FLNRO, Wildfire Management Branch
Eamon O'Donoghue, FLNRO
Josh Pressey, FLNRO
Doug Steventon, FLNRO
Darrell Whelan, FLNRO

RDBN Board of Directors:

Bill Holmberg, RDBN
Gerry Thiessen, RDBN
Luke Strimbold, RDBN
Dwayne Lindstrom, RDBN
Rob MacDougall, RDBN – left at 2:30 p.m.
Carman Graf, RDBN
Thomas Liversidge, RDBN
Tom Greenaway, RDBN
Ralph Roy, RDBN
Steve Freeman, RDBN
Jerry Petersen, RDBN
Rob Newell, RDBN
Stoney Stoltenberg, RDBN



RDBN Staff: Gail Chapman, RDBN
Cheryl Anderson, RDBN
Hans Berndorff, RDBN
Corrine Swenson, RDBN
Wendy Wainwright, RDBN

Opening Remarks (Bill Miller, Chair, RDBN and Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc.)

Bill Miller, Chair, RDBN, spoke of having the opportunity for open dialogue and discussion regarding the forestry issues facing the region. The participants have different mandates, but there is a need to come together to find common goals and discuss the forestry issues the region is encountering. It is important to have a sustainable tax base for the residents and communities throughout the RDBN. Chair Miller noted that forestry is the core of the region and the value derived from forestry is significant to the entire province.

The cost implications to communities and the region from downloading of responsibilities from the Federal and Provincial Governments cannot be sustained by the small tax base in the region.

There are difficult decisions being made, such as the sawmill closure of Houston Forest Products, and there may be future decisions that have large impacts to the region regarding timber supply. In order for communities to be viable and sustainable it is important for local leaders, community members, industry and licensees to provide input into the direction of their forests.

Chair Miller thanked everyone for sharing their valuable time.

Al Gorley, Triangle Resources Inc. provided a brief overview of his history in the region and career. He currently lives in Victoria, B.C. but was born in Burns Lake. He has worked in various capacities within a number of Forestry offices throughout the region. He was also the Assistant Deputy Minister to the Minister of Forests, Chair of the Forest Practices Board, and is a forestry consultant. He has assisted the Community Beetle Action Coalitions and has worked on forestry policies in the past.

Mr. Gorley noted that in the past there was conversation between provincial politicians and industry, but it did not include a lot of discussion with local governments. There has been a shift in the last few years wherein local governments are requesting a voice in what is happening in their regions. Local Governments want to be a part of communications between provincial government and industry and are making it a priority.

The direction from today's discussion is for the three groups, FLNRO, RDBN, and industry to exchange information and ideas and develop common forestry interests. Some issues can't be solved at this discussion, but there may be opportunity to provide input and influence decisions. Closing remarks today will provide an opportunity to develop an action plan.

Presentation by Ministry of FLNRO re Land Use Planning – Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Nadina

Chair Miller welcomed Darrell Whelan, Resource Manager, Nadina, FLNRO. Mr. Whelan provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Purpose

- Update work-in-progress to address impacts of Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) on forest values and uses in the Lakes TSA;
- Summarize results of technical work;
- Explain preliminary outcomes from consultation and analysis work that FLNRO has undertaken.

Mid-Term Timber Supply (MTTS) Action Plan

- MTTTS Action Plan is the Ministry response to Legislature direction:
 - Science-based review of land use planning objectives;
 - Fertilization investment;
 - Silviculture strategies;
 - Area based forest licenses;
 - Low volume forest licenses;
 - Timber Supply Review;
 - Inventory;
 - Etc.
- Report adopted by Legislature:
 - Recommendations respond to socio-economic impacts;
 - Finding Mid Term Timber;
 - Look at land use plan and objectives and determine community's inclination for potential changes to sensitive areas to increase access to MTTTS;
- Science-Based Review of Sensitive Areas
 - "Ensure that the review process is cost effective and justifiable, and that no changes are implemented in the management of sensitive areas in any area where there is lack of general consensus";
 - This work is coming to a close.

Land Use Plans (For Background Context)

- LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) continues to provide direction for conservation & land and resource use;
- SRMPs (Sustainable Resource Management Plan) provide strategies to implement LRMP objectives:
 - Focus is on Conservation of Ecological Values and Sensitive Areas:
 - i.e., old growth forest, wildlife, cultural heritage, water, riparian protection, ecosystem diversity.

Where to Start?

- Analysis and modelling:
 - After MPB (Mountain Pine Beetle) and salvage;
 - What happens to midterm timber supply if....
 - Remove all sensitive areas approximately 600,000 m³/year
 - The current Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is 2 million m³;
 - The average harvest level from 2000-2010 was 1.75 million m³;
 - Pre-Beetle Forecast is 1.5 million m³.

LAKES TSA (Timber Supply Area)

- Modelling of the Lakes TSA with the following values demonstrated the minimal amount of area for Timber Supply :
 - Old Growth Management Areas;
 - First Nations' Values;
 - High Value Caribou Habitat;
 - High Value Grizzly Bear Habitat;
 - Biological Ecosystem Network.

Spatially Designated Old Growth vs. Aspatial/Drifting Old Growth

- Timber supply simulation modeling for land base harvesting for Ootsa, Francois, Burns Lake, and Babine in the Lakes TSA:
 - SRMP for Biodiversity – supply of older forest in larger patches to support species that require larger patches;
 - Compared two scenarios:
 - Base – Reference Scenario - current rules;
 - Mitigation Scenario – Old growth management areas are modeled in the timber harvesting land base (THLB) – the effect and the value of older forest habitat predicts movement of species applying a range of responses.

Findings

- There is no general consensus for opening land use plans (LUP);
- Honour land use plans – any adjustments to plan objectives require further local public discussion;
- LUPs do a good job protecting biodiversity while maximizing timber availability;
- Protect wildlife (caribou, grizzly), water/riparian, protected areas, cultural values;
- Support Industry.

Moving Forward

- Sound Forest Management;
- Focus on determining the extent to which management regimes and special designations have met objectives established in land use plans:
 - Need for a program response to assess implementation effectiveness;
 - Possible incremental changes through monitoring of landscape level:
 - Maximize benefits to all values.

Other Work Under the Action Plan

- Harvest Rate adjustment – TSR (Timber Supply Review), partitioning;
- Focus harvest on dead and infested mature pine;
- Convert high productivity dead stands to growing stands;
- Fertilization in selected areas;
- Community-based tenure opportunities;
- Improve harvests of low productivity stands;
- Update forest inventory and technical analyses;
- Assess Land Use strategies for areas of improvement.

Director Bill Holmberg, RDBN, mentioned that the reason local and regional governments are becoming more involved in forestry is that it is vitally important to the economy and industries in the communities and region.

Concerns were brought forward regarding Timber Supply Reviews

- Not having accurate numbers for the amount of fibre/timber available.
- Difficult to make decisions if the information isn't available.
- Minister Thomson indicated at a meeting held in Houston on February 28, 2014 that the Morice TSR is not complete; but yet,
- Volumes of timber are being moved around when there is uncertainty surrounding the amount of timber available.

A further issue identified in the Morice TSR is that of the Caribou population.

Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina, FLNRO, explained that TSRs are evaluated every five years to determine what has happened on the land base to date. For example there can be new policies, procedures constraints that have been implemented and/or removed. Due to the ever changing nature of what is occurring on the land base it is difficult to wait to complete a TSR.

Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director, Skeena, FLNRO mentioned that the Telkwa Caribou's numbers have fluctuated. The numbers are approximately 12-14, and concerns are that it will disappear. Federal Government legislation has identified Caribou as a Species at Risk, thus FLNRO must move forward to address the issue. It is currently in the study stage and proposals are being brought forward. FLNRO staff will be meeting with communities throughout the Morice TSA to discuss the issue. Modelling through the Morice TSR to review impacts to the Telkwa area Caribou is currently being completed.

Mike Dunbar, Fibre Supply Manager, West Fraser noted that inventory in the Morice TSA is taking place and there are existing numbers which are positive moving forward. Chair Miller mentioned that the RDBN has strongly encouraged the provincial government to conduct inventory of the forests in order for factual decision making to take place.

FLNRO has completed a silvicultural analysis in the Lakes and Morice TSA.

- What to do silviculturally to get stands that are worth investing in to grow faster. Partitions have been put in place to mitigate the midterm timber supply along with other strategies to shift and/or slow down moving from the MPB (Mountain Pine Beetle) to midterm timber supply.

Larry Gardner, Chief Forester B.C., West Fraser, spoke of the inventory work that has recently been completed in many TSAs in the province and the disconnect of the inventory numbers and what is actually on the ground. It is especially noticeable in the Lakes and Caribou TSAs where the MPB has had a significant impact on the TSA. The amount of available volume to move to the mill does not match the numbers the inventory identified. The disconnect could possibly be that more timber is left behind than modelled or the inventory could be incorrect, etc.

Included in the analysis conducted by FLNRO are the values inside the Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) and a primary objective is to minimize implications to the THLB and also recognize how much of the values overlap.

Discussion took place regarding the intensive process of redeveloping the Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP). It would be beneficial to evaluate the LRMPs and determine their effectiveness and address areas that may need change.

Concerns in regard to realistic strategies and assumptions for timber supply over the next 20 years was brought forward and a system for the flow of timber. Mr. Pressey explained that currently the only process in place to develop strategies for future projections is the TSR. There is a pilot project being considered for 100 Mile House to determine the entire fibre supply rather than just the saw log. There are categories of wood that can be usable for a variety of different products. The AAC's set are not being achieved and harvesting is much lower. The AAC is over representing what is economically extractable. The pilot project is to include all fibre on the ground and use tools to categorize and determine value of fibre.

West Fraser has forecast tenure plans for three and five years they also have yearly plans. The plans are being adjusted continuously to accommodate such issues as Cariboo species at risk, etc.

Industry indicated that the communication between forestry groups, provincial government, and industry is good.

Land Use Changes

Mr. O'Donoghue mentioned FLNRO heard a consensus during community consultations regarding opening up land use plans and the desire was to monitor and review on a regular basis the LRMPs.

RDBN's Perspective on Land Use Changes - Chair Miller

To have good communication it is imperative to have open conversation and dialogue. It provides opportunity for groups to understand each other.

Wildfire Fire Mitigation

- Provincial government download of wildfire proofing communities and the rural/urban interface regarding wildfire;
- RDBN determined a larger plan was needed;
- Took forward to UBCM (Union of B.C. Municipalities) the need to investigate more land base level harvesting;
- Concern that there wasn't a high ranking on the regional economies raw resource of timber;

VQO (Visual Quality Objectives)

- o Maintain visual quality;
- o Fuel and fire mitigation;
- o Part of interface zones.

Diverse region with numerous objectives in terms of managing the forest, concerns that it not be an overall plan but have local input to customize the plans for each area.

Need to look ahead to the future and not back and require good inventory numbers.

Forestry Committee Chair Thiessen

Gerry Thiessen, Chair RDBN Forestry Committee spoke of the diverse nature with each community having its own unique characteristics. There are areas in which there is unanimous consensus, inventory and wildfire. Discussion between the province, industry and local government has improved and is moving forward. The communities need to succeed and forestry is the number one industry through the entire region and decisions need to have input from the local communities. Communities request dialogue with industry and the province because of the importance the forestry resource is for the region.

Forest Industry Perspective on Land Use Change

Richard Vossen, R.P.F, Canadian Resource Manager, Hampton Lumber Mills, Babine and Decker Lake Forest Products Division and Chair, Forest Industry Group

Chair Miller welcomed Richard Vossen, R.P.F, Canadian Resource Manager, Hampton Lumber Mills, Babine and Decker Lake Forest Products Division and Chair, Forest Industry Group. Mr. Vossen provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Industry perspective on Land-Use Changes Background Information

- **Land use plans set objectives for timber & non timber values:**
 - Lakes LRMP:
 - Developed in 1994;
 - At that time MPB was 25 hectares in Tweedsmuir Park;
 - Currently things have dramatically changed;
 - impacting social / economic and environmental values;
 - LRMP's:
 - Objectives: Community Stability, Resource Development, Critical wildlife habitat, visual, biodiversity etc.;
 - SRMP – Lakes North and Lakes South:
 - Technical plans that establish biodiversity objectives;
 - LRMPs / SRMPs were never meant to be stagnant:
 - Intent was to review plans and adapt;
 - To be monitored for effectiveness;
- **Industry supports current land-use plans and objectives set by those plans**
 - No plan to “open up” LRMPs:
 - Values and Objectives still apply;
 - Looking for opportunities to achieve objectives differently in light of beetle epidemic across interior:
 - flexibility in achieving objectives and targets;
 - Need to have effective monitoring plans in place:
 - Are we achieving what we set out to do;
 - Need current inventory data:
 - Good inventory data is critical to predicting timber supply;
 - Utilize dead pine in short term will help minimize mid-term timber supply fall down:
 - Cutting dead pine preserves green timber;
 - Reforestation of productive growing sites;
 - Reduce fire hazard.
- **Examples of things we can do to help maintain timber supply and still achieve land use objectives**
 - **Visual Quality Objectives:**
 - Achieve VQOs over long-term;
 - Managing VQOs differently will help short (mid)-term timber supply.
 - **Review of Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA):**
 - Monitor OGMA's to see if we are achieving desired objectives;
 - Look to manage OGMA's differently and still achieve old growth objectives.
 - **Biodiversity Targets:**
 - Managing targets over a long-term in light of beetle epidemic;
 - Review how we are managing and achieve targets.

- **Critical Wildlife Areas:**
 - Monitor to ensure areas are meeting intended results;
 - Can objectives be met without compromising timber supply?
- **Why do we need to maintain Timber Supply and Land Use Objectives?**
 - Timber Supply is key to the sustainability and health of the Region;
 - Provides for long-term "well paying" jobs in the RDBN:
 - Direct and Indirect Jobs;
 - Forest Industry has diversified; timber supply sustains sawmills, pellet plants, cogeneration, pulp mills;
 - "green" renewable, reliable industry;
 - Non-Timber Land Use Objectives are key to the health of the Region:
 - Biodiversity;
 - Critical Wildlife Habitat;
 - Visual, Recreational and Cultural Values.

Lakes TSA is the smallest in the north.

Reforestation:

- Industry cuts; industry completes the reforestation;
- FLNRO – in such areas as burns or MPB, government through its Forests for Tomorrow Program completes the reforestation.

LRMP's

- Focus on monitoring;
- Are all the objectives being met now?;
- When the LRMP's were implemented the MPB issue was not identified;
- Meet some objectives in order to move through the issues;
- Are there different objectives to be met for stable ways to move forward through the midterm timber supply?
- Entering into the midterm now in many areas and will continue to see impacts over the next five years;
- Logging the dead pine is for today, tomorrow and the next day, but not for the midterm – more will be required.

Break at 2:35 p.m.

Reconvened at 2:54 p.m.

Operational efficiencies for all, with better communication and engagement industry is open and willing to make sure that nothing has been missed and local government is showing interest. Industry is encouraged by the role local government is wanting to play in regard to forestry issues.

Five Topic areas where there is an opportunity for the three groups to work together or have clear communications – Al Gorley

1. Fire Management Planning/Landscape level Fuel Management strategy:
 - Fuel management is a part of fire management;
 - Fire management is large part of fuel management;
 - Interests different but intercept.
2. Land Use Plan Monitoring:
 - Support for reviewing how effective LUPs are and have been;
 - Confirm everyone on the same path.
3. Timber Flow Projections
 - Know what AACs are;
 - Companies are looking at where timber is;
 - Challenges finding AAC;
 - Assuming BCTS going through similar process;
 - Information exchanged between group members.
4. Silviculture on Lands not likely to be replanted
 - What is left over?
 - What is going to happen?
 - Are government programs sufficient?
 - Communities need that information.
5. Assumptions how/when meet objectives of LRMPs
 - Need to be on the same path.

How to work together and where everyone's position is.

Further topics for discussion in the future:

- Local government conversation with provincial government:
 - o Distribution and benefits of distribution of timber harvesting;
 - Where do they go?
 - o What happens when Industry makes its decisions regarding consolidations/shutdowns:
 - How communities affected.

RDBN wants to be part of dialogue and know what is happening. They have the ability to offer government to government communication. What is the process moving forward?

Where do Community Forests Fit?

- Fuel Management;
- Landscape level management;
- Need big industry, but also need community forest and salvage associations to work together was the message that was given to Minister Thomson at the meeting in February 28, 2014 in Houston;
- Integral part of communities and the economy;
- Discuss more in the future.

Moving Forward

FLNRO

Long term

- Continue this type of forum;
- FLNRO committed to continued dialogue;
- Industry, local government and FLNRO move together through the upcoming years in order to mitigate forestry issues.

Short term – immediate

- Land Use objectives monitoring and fire mitigation;
- Minister gave mandate to consult to determine what is wanted from the LRMPs;
- Fire mitigation/Fuel management– look at assertively in the short term;
- Direction to determine if that is what is wanted.

Director Thiessen indicated that information may be provided after the RDBN meeting scheduled on March 20, 2014 as to the direction to be given regarding the short term objectives.

Industry

- Committed to keeping lines of communications;
- Regular dialogue;
- Keen to have local government involvement;
- Need support in communities;
- FLNRO needs to also hear from local stakeholders;
- Share same goals and objectives to have healthy communities and a healthy forest industry.

Discussion took place regarding the need to continue to have a larger forum for transparent communication. Moving forward if there are specific issues that could be more beneficial by using smaller task force groups that will be determined. The diversity and the need to have all players from the region at the table is very important.

The RDBN Forestry Committee agendas being sent to FLNRO and industry is welcome to attend and provide input into the decision making process. FLNRO attends quite often to provide updates and the invitation is also open to industry. The region is a stronger voice working together than as individuals moving forward issues to higher levels of government. The RDBN has a commitment from the Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to attend a future RDBN Forestry Committee meeting.

FLNRO - Fuel Management – what is going to happen?

- In terms of fire risk to communities – high level of concern;
- Interest to look at one element of that:
 - o VQOs adjacent to communities;
 - o Opportunity to look at VQO's;
 - o Commit over the next 6 months to 1 year if that is the desire to commit to investigating VQOs in relation to fuel management and communities;
 - What the opportunity is and if there should be change to the legal objectives.
- Fire Management Landscape Level management pilots are being performed
 - o Fraser Lake/Vanderhoof/Fort St. James have been part of;
- Industry, FLNRO, community leaders meet to have input into the pilots.

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Key Policy Issues:

- Timber Supply;
 - o BC Timber Sales (BCTS);
 - o Largest licensee in area;
 - o Need to as industry, FLNRO, RDBN meet with BC Timber Sales;
- What are the top three key issues regarding policy changes?
- Group shift into key policy issues to address urgent issues.

Identify policy issues that are important in the long term and better forest management

First Nations to be included:

- Opportunity to build relationships and communication dialogue;

Brainstorm issues to develop a list of topics to organize presentations and meetings. Industry and FLNRO has developed an "Issues Template". An issues template identifies the issue, provides discussion and potential recommendations or outcomes for the issue. This may be a useful tool for the RDBN Forestry Committee to utilize.

Summary/Closing Remarks (Al Gorley)

- Commitment by RDBN Forestry Committee to provide FLNRO a response regarding monitoring of Land Use Management Plans (LRMP);
- Fuel Management Plan – is there encouragement to do the work that FLNRO discussed;
- Status report of what is occurring in the region;
 - o Identify gaps;
- Commitment on behalf of FLNRO and industry to continue to meet and have dialogue;
- Short term:
 - o Expectation RDBN Forestry Committee will lead and share thinking with others with an open invitation to attend;
- Process discussed:
 - o RDBN Forestry Committee to have priority list to address over time;
 - Identify priority of importance;
 - Input from industry/FLNRO;
 - Develop discussion paper;
 - Level of agreement – what to do and collectively influence;
 - Clarity important.
- BCTS
 - o Await results from John Allan's review of BCTS;
 - o Meet to determine consensus and differences;
 - o Move forward as a group.
- First Nations
 - o Keep transparent open dialogue.

Information to FLNRO and industry to continue.

Closing Remarks (Bill Miller, RDBN)

Chair Miller spoke of the opportunity to remain engaged and the commitment to continue an open dialogue. The RDBN is committed to develop a strategy and move the strategy forward with higher levels of government.

The meeting today has given an opportunity for a commitment to continue to work together toward the best outcome for the region.

Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee of the Whole)**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Gerry Thiessen
Directors	Taylor Bachrach Stephen Freeman Carman Graf Bill Holmberg Dwayne Lindstrom Thomas Liversidge Rob MacDougall Bill Miller Rob Newell Jerry Petersen Ralph Roy Stoney Stoltenberg Luke Strimbold
Director Absent	Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
Staff	Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
Others	Doug Donaldson, MLA Stikine

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes of the Stakeholders
Meeting Regarding Mill
Closure – Wednesday,
October 30, 2013

Moved by Director Lindstrom
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

F.C.2013-7-1

"That the Forestry Committee receive the Minutes of the Stakeholders Meeting Regarding Mill Closure – Wednesday, October 30, 2013."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Holmberg spoke of being notified regarding West Fraser's decision to close Houston Forest Products sawmill in Houston. He has met with the B.C. Transition Committee and requested meetings with West Fraser, Canfor and the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. He stated his opposition to the timber that is being moved from the Morice TSA (Timber Supply Area) to the Bulkley TSA. Canfor management has indicated they will be available to discuss the long term plan for the Canfor sawmill that will remain open in Houston. West Fraser is currently working on the transition of its workers and it is a work in progress.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Director Holmberg noted concerns regarding the property in which Houston Forest Products is located and West Fraser has indicated that the sawmill buildings will be removed by the third quarter of 2014. This will have a significant impact to the District of Houston's tax base thus the District of Houston is discussing budget changes now to adjust for the upcoming change.

Director Holmberg spoke of the work that still needs to be completed and the difficulties that the community is facing. He also thanked Chair Miller and the RDBN for providing support and the Mayors that have contacted him.

Discussion took place regarding the significant economic and social issues facing the community of Houston. Canfor will assimilate the logging contractors that were working for West Fraser. This will also have an impact on jobs.

A possible legacy fund for the community was brought forward for discussion. Director Newell is a part of the economic development team that has been formulated to assist in the transition.

The importance for forestry decisions to be made on strong scientific forestry numbers rather than government or company shuffles and the consequences of what can happen when factual information is not utilized was brought forward as a concern.

Discussion took place regarding regional support for the community of Houston as it moves through the transition of a mill closure. Director Holmberg commented that when a meeting is scheduled with the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister and Tim Sheldon, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations he will extend the invitation to Chair Miller and Vice-Chair Thiessen.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

F.C.2013-7-2

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 p.m."

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Thiessen and Forestry Committee Members
FROM: Gail Chapman, CAO
SUBJECT: RDBN/FLNRO/Industry Meeting – March 5/14
Followup – Motions as suggested by Mr. Al Gorley
DATE: March 13, 2014

As a result of the joint meeting between the RDBN/FLNRO/Industry on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, the following motions, as suggested by Mr. Al Gorley, are being brought forward for Forestry Committee approval:

1. The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations asked the RDBN Board of Directors if it supported the idea of monitoring for land use plans (LRMPs)? Motion Consideration:

"The RDBN understands that there is not a consensus to re-open Land Use Plans, therefore, the Province it is unlikely to do so. However, the RDBN believes there is a need to monitor the effectiveness of current plans, and ensure that implementation takes into account changes that have occurred since the plans were adopted. The RDBN encourages the Province to establish and lead a monitoring program that will inform stakeholders and improve operation decisions."

2. The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations asked the RDBN Board of Directors if it supported doing an analysis of visual quality objectives (VQOs) relative to fuel management and fire risk? Motion Consideration:

"The RDBN recognizes that the Ministry is contemplating an analysis of the impacts of existing visual quality objectives on wildfire risk in the region. The RDBN understands the analysis could lead to recommendations to change the legal objectives in land use plans, possibly, enabling the mitigation of hazardous fuel build-up by salvaging dead timber and reforestation. Based upon this understanding, the RDBN supports the analysis and requests that it be consulted further before any decisions are made to change legal objectives."

RECOMMENDATION: (All/Directors/Majority)

"That Recommendations 1 and 2 be recommended to the Regional Board of the RDBN for approval as written and submission to the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations."



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

Memorandum

TO: Chair Thiessen and Forestry Committee Members

FROM: Gail Chapman, CAO

SUBJECT: BC Oil & Gas Commission

DATE: March 13, 2014

Background:

The Regional Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has, on numerous occasions, requested of the Province and industry that tenure include the caveat that all fibre, either along pipeline routes or cleared as a result of mining/power line development, be taken to mills, not burned.

Specific to pipeline development, cutting permits are issued by the BC Oil and Gas Commission – not the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

BC Oil and Gas Commission:

As an agent of the Crown, the Oil and Gas Commission is responsible for:

- Regulation of all petroleum and natural gas activities;
- Regulation of all provincially regulated pipelines; and,
- Issuing Land Act tenures for oil and gas drilling sites, well sites, access roads as well as campsites, air strips, gravel pits, power and telecommunication lines and provincial pipelines, any of which are used solely for oil and gas production purposes;
- Regulatory responsibility comes from the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* and includes statutory authorities and specified enactments under the *Forest Act*, *Heritage Conservation Act*, *Land Act*, *Environmental Management Act*, and *Water Act*.

Land required for oil and gas purposes is approved by the Oil and Gas Commission.

The commission has five offices: Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Kelowna and Victoria.

BC Oil and Gas Commission
March 13, 2014
Page 2

As part of the permitting process, a Fibre Utilization Plan must be completed and submitted to the Oil and Gas Commission by the company seeking tenure. A copy of the Fibre Utilization Plan Guideline is attached for your reference. Please note Sections 2, 2.1 and 2.2.

Meeting with Oil and Gas Commission

In order to discuss the concerns the RDBN Board of Directors have regarding burning of fibre along pipeline routes, staff have taken the liberty to schedule an appointment with the Oil and Gas Commissioner, Mr. Paul Jeakins, while in attendance at the NCLGA Convention in Fort St. John. The meeting has been scheduled for **May 7th, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Oil and Gas Commission office. I will be in attendance to coordinate RDBN Directors travel, etc. to the meeting. At this time, it would be most appreciated if you could let me know if you wish to attend.

RECOMMENDATION:

(All/Directors/Majority)

Receive.

Respectfully submitted,



Fibre Utilization Plan Guideline

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This guideline supports the completion of the Fibre Utilization Plan (FUP) form posted on the Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) website. A FUP is to be submitted to the Commission along with applications, as detailed in Section 2.0 of this guideline, that require new cut on Crown land.

2.0 APPLICATION

The purpose of the fibre utilization requirement is to ensure responsible utilization of merchantable fibre harvested for oil and gas development. The FUP informs the Commission's determination on fibre utilization. The Commission expects oil and gas operators to assess merchantable and non-merchantable fibre volumes and, where practicable, appropriately utilize merchantable fibre, or make said fibre available for other interested parties to utilize.

Wood fibre is considered utilized when:

- The merchantable fibre had been removed from a project site and transported to a commercial fibre processing facility for use, or
- The merchantable fibre has been decked at roadside accessible by conventional log hauling trucks; and First Nations, local forest licensees, and local logging contractors have been notified that the fibre is available, or
- The fibre is used by the oil and gas operator onsite for matting, corduroy, decking, railings, etc.

2.1 Fibre Merchantability

Fibre is considered merchantable if it meets the merchantability specifications listed in Section 1.5 of the current Coastal or Interior Appraisal Manual (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/interior.htm, <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/coast.htm>). Further direction is given by the Chief Forester in the most recent Timber Supply Review for the applicable forest district (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsas.htm). Non-merchantable fibre may include logging debris, logging waste, undersized stems, etc. and may be estimated as 20% of merchantable fibre for merchantable stands, or as an ocular estimate for non-merchantable stands.

2.2 Exemptions

Exemption from fibre utilization requirements must be requested at the time the application is submitted or through a permit amendment. Exemption may be granted by the Commission if:

- The volume of fibre is small and/or remote,

- The holder of the MLTC and associated CP can provide documentation from potential buyers stating that the species and grades of fibre are not currently being utilized,
- The recovery of the fibre would cause damage to other resources in excess of the value of the fibre recovered, or
- Utilization of the timber is not practicable.

Given the nature of geophysical activities, and the logistical difficulties associated with making fibre harvested during geophysical activity, all geophysical programs are exempted from the fibre utilization requirement.

2.3 Forest Health

All fibre waste left onsite must be managed to minimize fire and pest risks and must be disposed of at the end of the clearing phase or at the end of the summer fire season, whichever comes first.

2.4 Waste Assessment

Oil and gas operators cutting Crown timber are required, regardless of utilization, to report and pay the province for that timber. As per the specifications detailed in the Master License to Cut, exempted merchantable fibre, outside the Forest Districts described in section 6.6 of the Interior Forest Appraisal Manual (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/interior.htm), must have a waste survey completed and stumpage will be billed by BC accordingly.

3.0 FORM DETAILS

3.1 Block A Administration

Administrative information is used to collect key applicant and agent contact information.

Applicant Name – Enter the company name as registered with the BC Corporate Registry.

Contact Information – The first and last name of the principal contact for the applicant company, and the primary phone and email information for the contact listed.

Referral Company – The referral company or land agent contracted by the applicant.

Agent Information – The name, primary phone number and email address of the land agent.

3.2 Block B Volume and Area

Indicate the method used to calculate the fibre volume estimate. Check one or more boxes, as appropriate.

The applicant is required to include an estimate of the area of new Crown land disturbance. If the project is located on Crown land, the total amount of new Crown land area disturbed, in hectares (excluding woodlot areas) is to be indicated in this section. Do not include areas that were previously cleared and have not been restocked to Ministry of Forests, Lands and

Natural Resource Operations stocking standards
(www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm).

Please note that a volume estimate for both merchantable and non-merchantable timber, both coniferous and deciduous, is required.

The original/proposed new cut for Crown land area is the amount of new cut that is being proposed or was permitted on the original application. This field must be completed for all fibre utilization submissions.

The amended area of new cut on Crown land area is applicable only for an amendment and is the change from the original permitted area.

Indicate whether harvesting has commenced on the original permitted area.

Proposed new cut total for Crown land area is the total of both the original/proposed area and the amended area.

3.3 Block C Utilization Plan

Indicate how the fibre is to be utilized by checking the appropriate box. Provide details as requested to allow the Commission to review the FUP as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Exemption from the fibre utilization requirements must be requested at the time the application is submitted or through permit amendment (as explained in section 2.2 above). A rationale for the requested exemption must be attached to the FUP.

3.4 Block D – Signing Authority

A representative of the company who has the authority to sign legal agreements on its behalf must sign the FUP form.

4.0 CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the FUP or its application, contact the appropriate Operations Manager responsible for overseeing Regional Operations in the area for which the activity is proposed. Refer to the Commission's website for current contact information (<http://bcogc.ca/Phone-List>).

Omineca Beetle Action Coalition BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review Discussion Backgrounder

DECEMBER 13, 2013

The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) welcomes the opportunity to provide input and influence to the BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review, conducted by John Allan, on December 13, 2013.

As part of its larger body of work conducted since 2006, the OBAC prepared the Future Forest Products and Fibre Use Strategy, which expresses the OBAC future vision for the wood resource. Among other things, the strategy urges actions that would have the effect of increasing benefits to the public from the resource, diversifying products from the sector, strengthening partnerships between communities, government and industry, and increasing and ensuring more equitable and diverse access to wood fibre for users. An executive summary of the strategy is found at <http://www.ominecacoalition.ca/Strategies/ForestAndFibre/index.html>.

OBAC INTERESTS IN THE BC TIMBER SALES EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The interests of the OBAC board of directors regarding the BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Effectiveness Review are consistent with the strategy mentioned above:

1. The OBAC board has discussed the broad role of BCTS in public policy and agreed unanimously that communities would be better served if the BCTS mission was restated to reflect a balanced set of public interests. For example: *"To manage and sell timber in a manner that supports the public's long-term cultural, economic and environmental interests while providing a fair ongoing financial return to the province."*
2. The OBAC is interested in seeing timber managed and sold in a manner that better supports the region's cultural and economic interests while protecting environmental values and future opportunities. We believe BCTS can be an important tool in the government's hands, but its current mandate is too restrictive and would need to be broadened.
3. If market pricing is to remain the primary mission of BCTS, with other objectives being subordinate, then enough timber should be apportioned to other forms of (non- "major") licenses to address other regional interests.
4. The role and effectiveness of BCTS must be considered in light of an overall forest policy agenda, and change should not occur in the absence of an understanding about how the government intends to deal with elements such as tenure (e.g., area-based management), industry consolidation, apportionment of reduced timber supplies, etc.

The Region's vision for the future of its forest industry is unlikely to be achieved by continuing on the current path, with current policies. BCTS can contribute to the current decline, or it can be an agent for revitalization- what's in the greatest public interest?

The OBAC believes that the following key questions are important to be considered as the BCTS Effectiveness Review proceeds, and looks forward to discussing them on December 13, 2013.

1. **How much should the Canada-US softwood lumber trade continue to impact the role of BCTS?**
 - Does growing access to the Asian market change the role of BCTS?
 - Does diversification of products (e.g., bioenergy) change the situation?
 - How credible is the market pricing objective in light of consolidated ownership of lumber manufacturing – one buyer?
 - Could the pricing information be obtained in another manner?
 - What percentage of the AAC is needed to determine market value?

2. **What role, if any, should BCTS have in supporting regional economic development?**
 - Supply to the bioenergy sector.
 - Access to raw material for specialty manufacturers.
 - Harvest/marketing of timber for other industrial purposes (e.g., pipelines).
 - Ability to supply and help grow new and emerging local markets for timber.
 - Equitable access to fibre by the entire, 'real' timber market.

3. **What role, if any, should BCTS have in the future forest tenure framework?**
 - Impact on BCTS of possible conversion to area-based tenure for majors.
 - Ability of BCTS to provide representative pricing if it becomes an "area-based" operator.
 - In an area-based regime, focus on being an auction-house for a cross-section of the timber profile, leaving management to area-based licensees (BCTS without an operational forestry role).
 - Impacts of consolidation and transfers and mill closures on apportionment/take-back.

4. **Is there a role for BCTS in sustainable forest management/forest stewardship?**
 - Problem forest types or landscapes.
 - Backlog silviculture.
 - Stewardship of complex, multi-use landscapes not suited to management by private companies.
 - Providing leadership to the ongoing salvage of dead pine in the interests of protecting mid-term timber supply.

- presentation
to OBAC,
Bd. of Directors
- info . iten

Mountain Pine Beetle and BC's Forests



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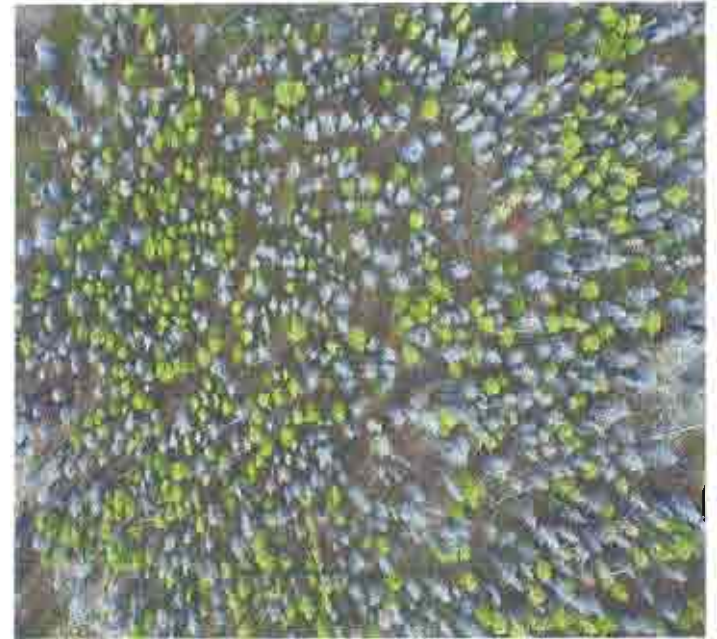
Dave Peterson
Chief Forester, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations
January 16th, 2014



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

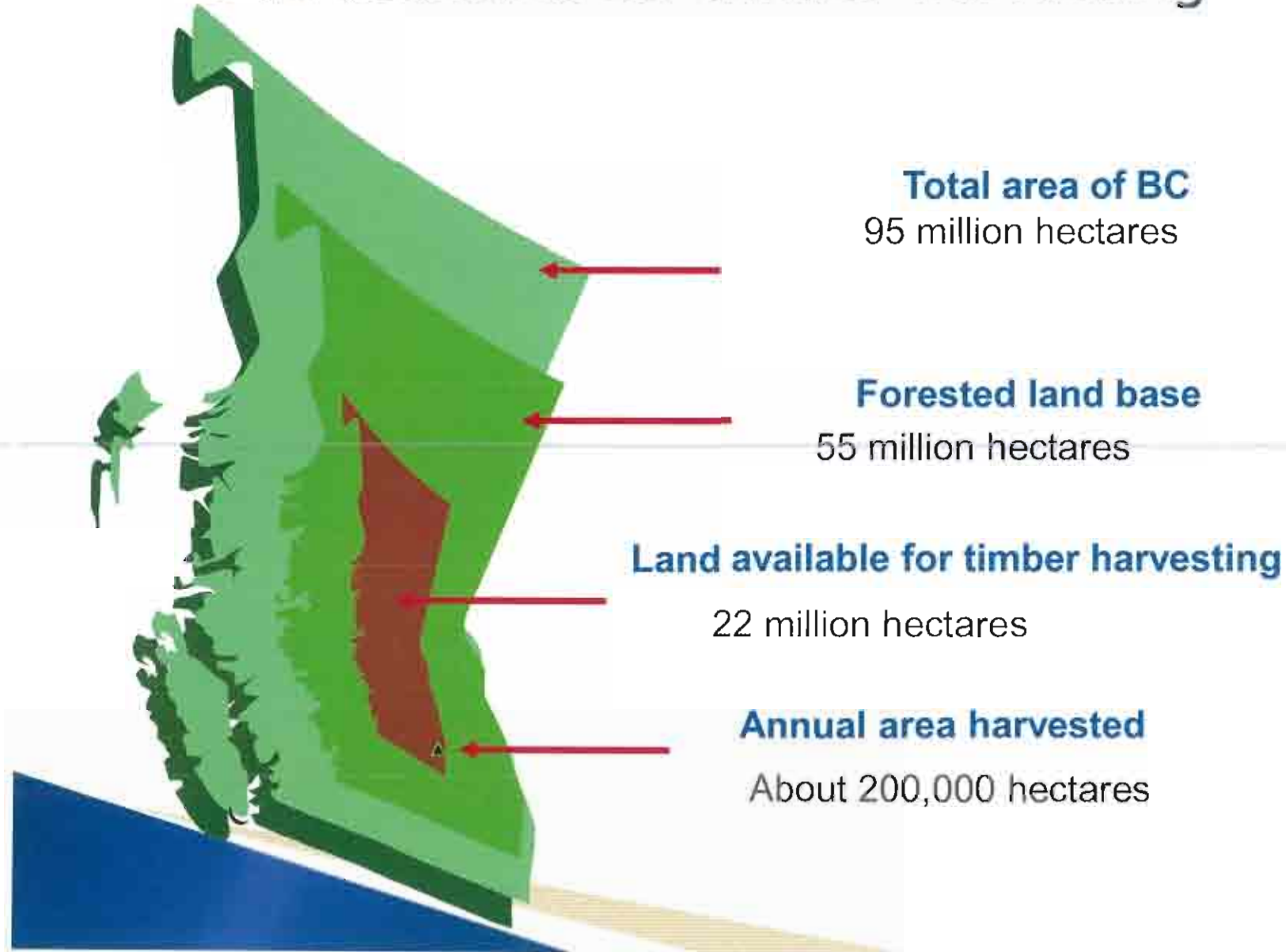
Presentation Outline

1. BC Context
2. Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation Update
3. Provincial Timber Supply Forecast
4. Prince George TSA Example
 - Short-term Supply
 - Mid-term Opportunity
5. Conclusions



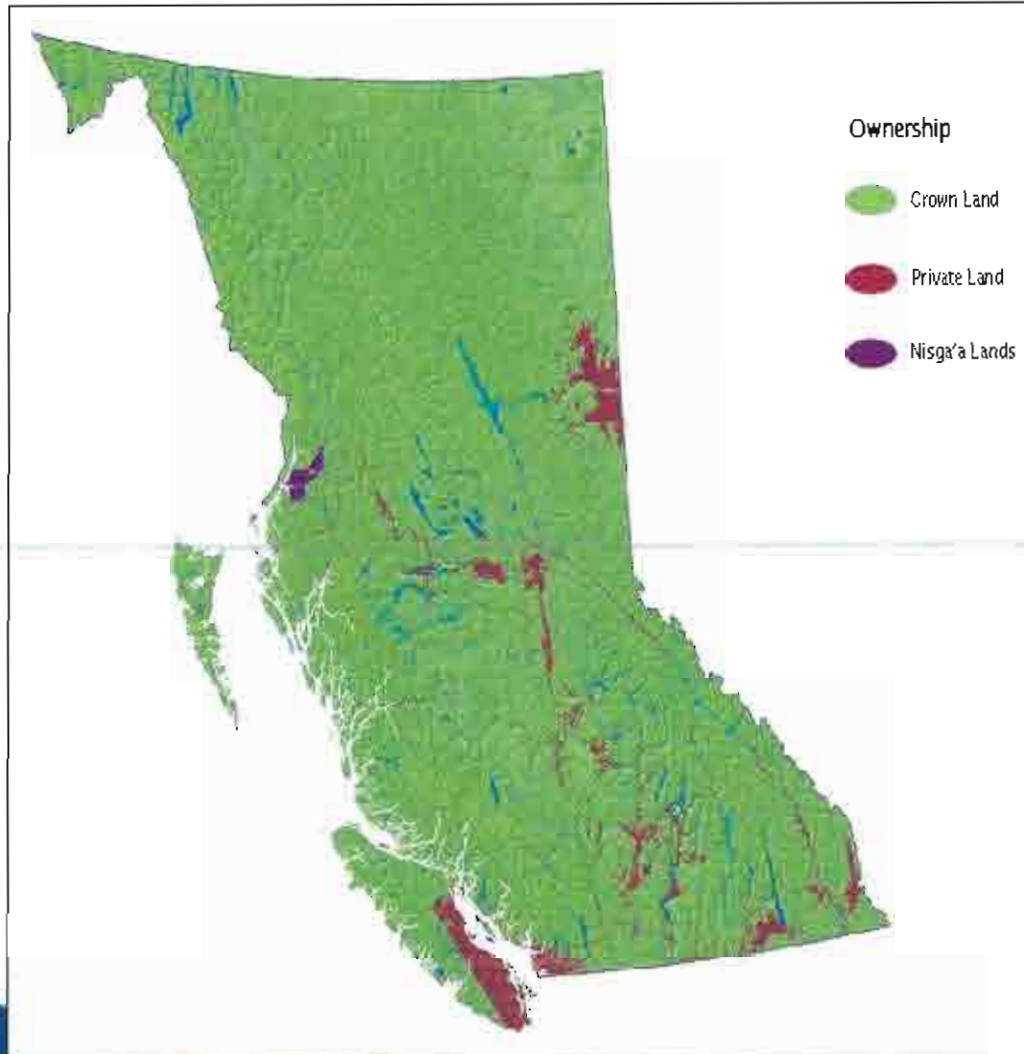
BC Context

Area available for timber harvesting



BC Context

BC Forest Lands – Ownership

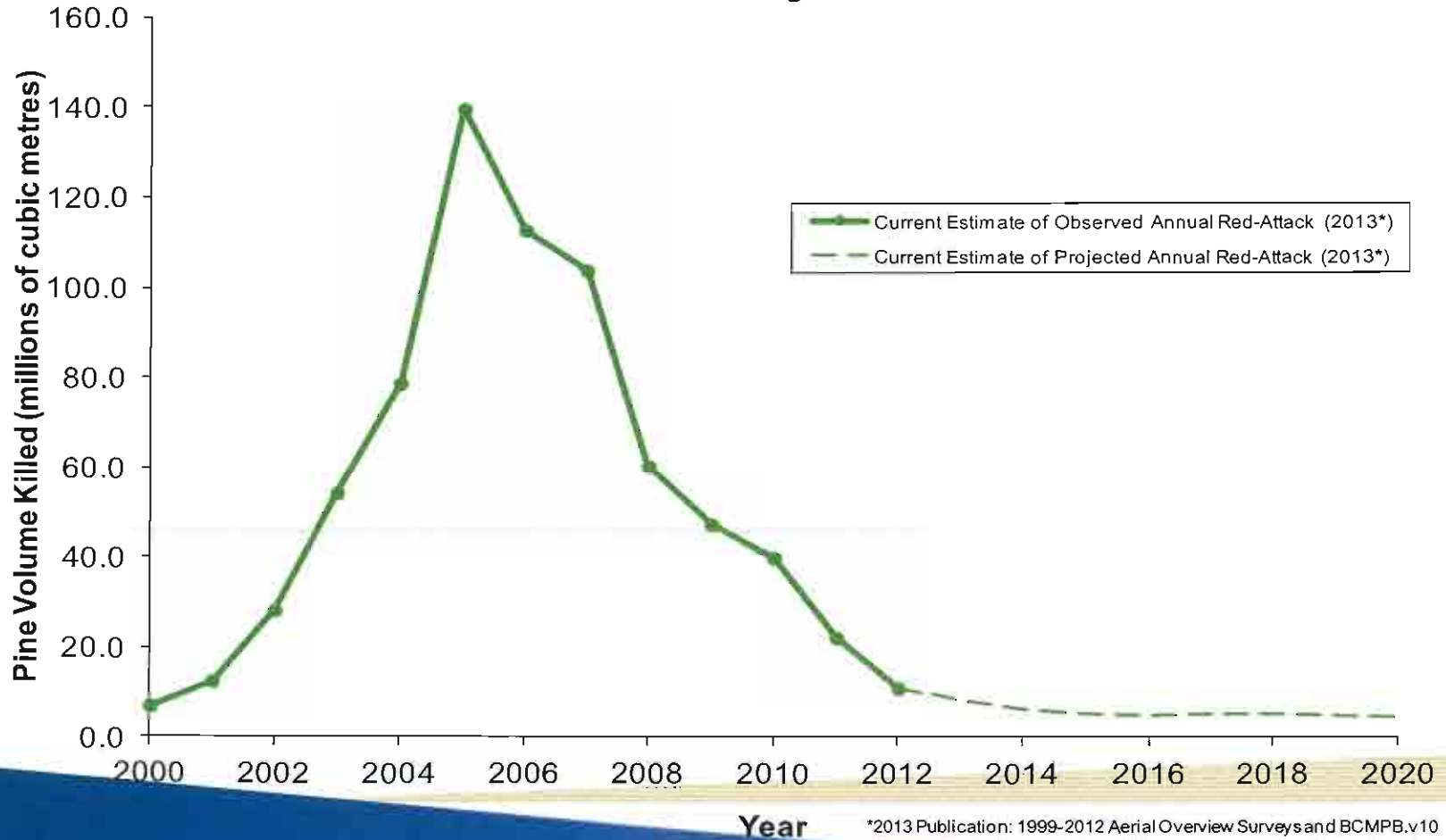


➤ 95 %
Public
ownership

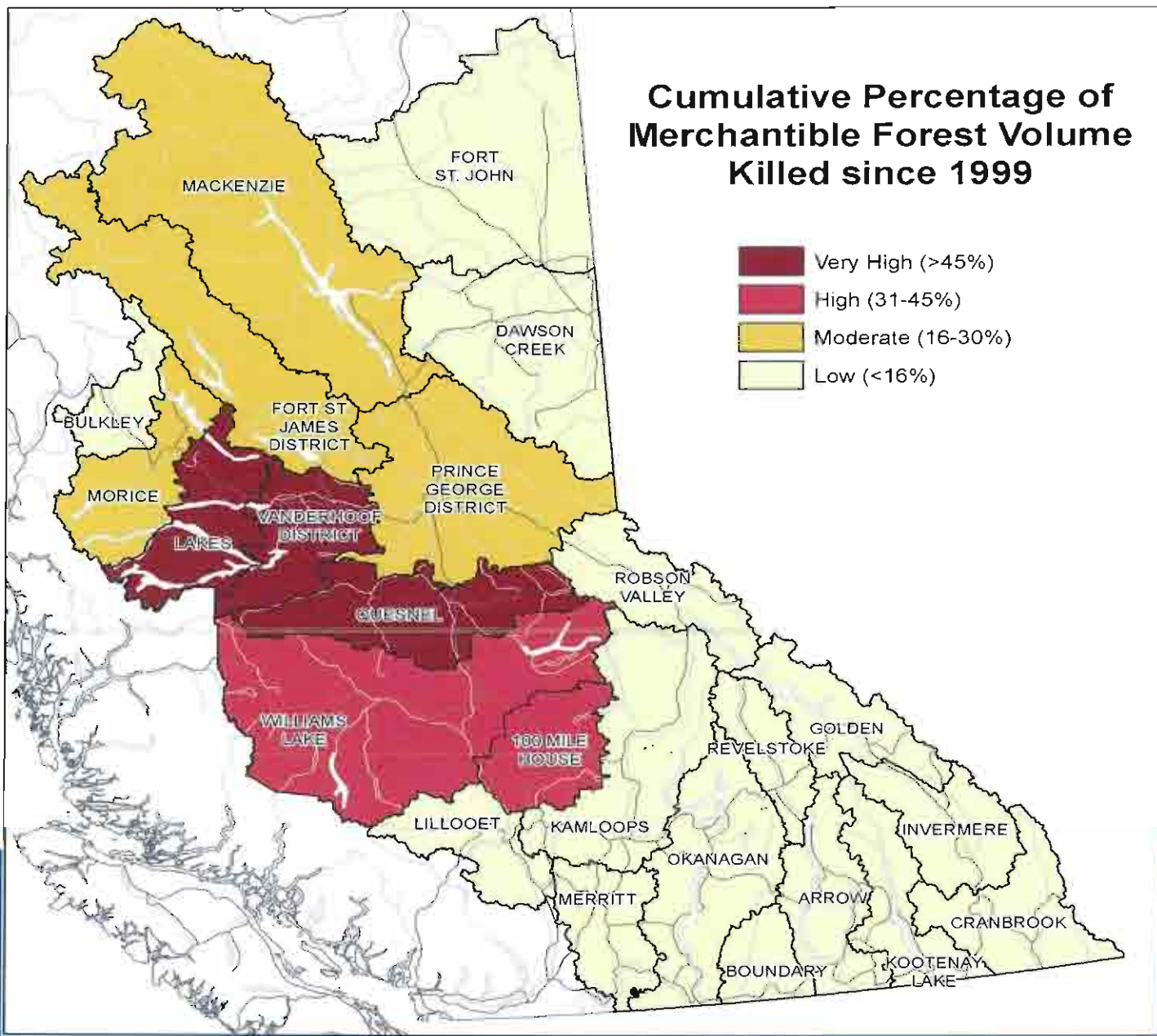
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Infestation Update

Entire Province Timber Harvesting Land Base

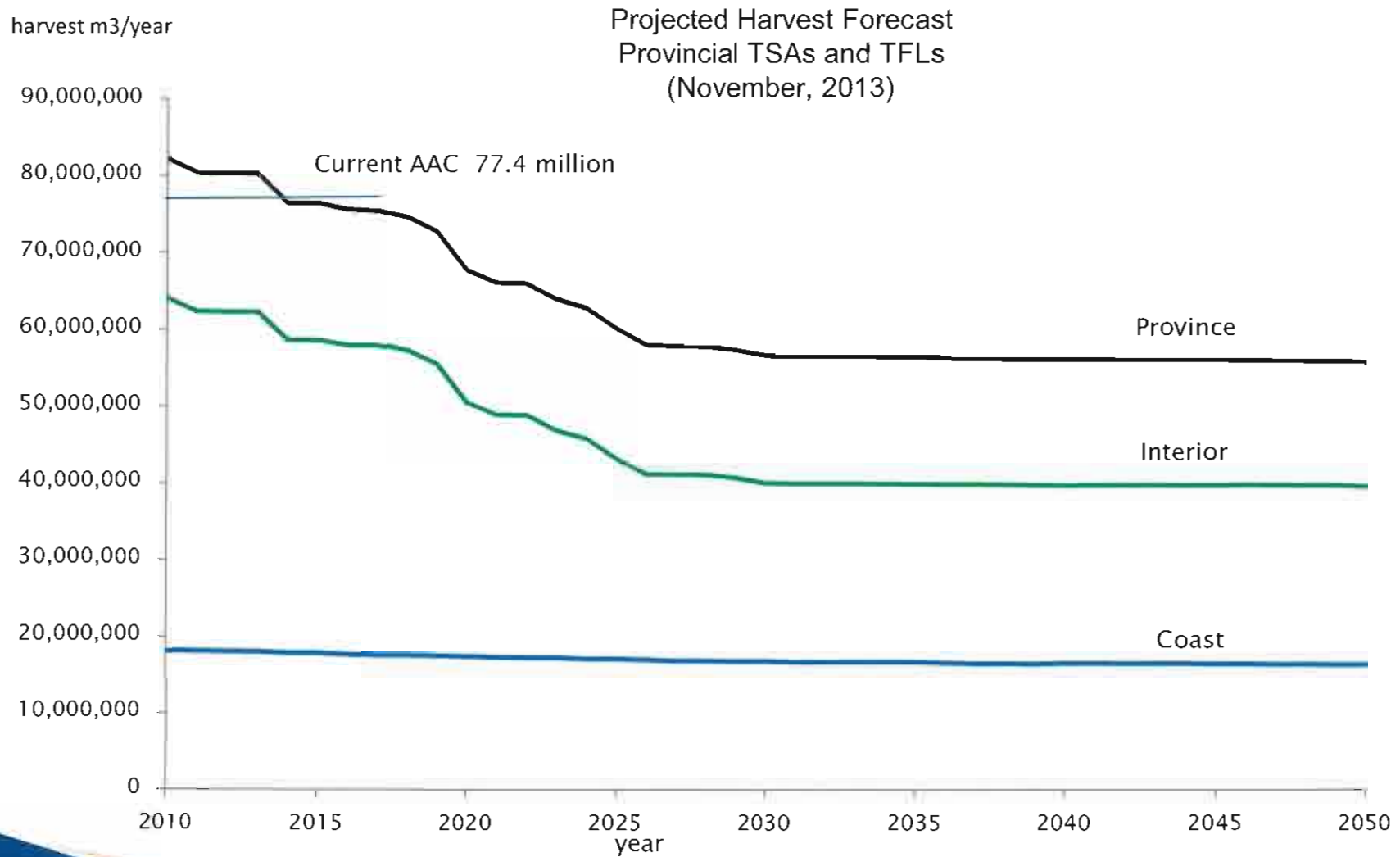


Cumulative Percentage of Merchantable Forest Volume Killed since 1999

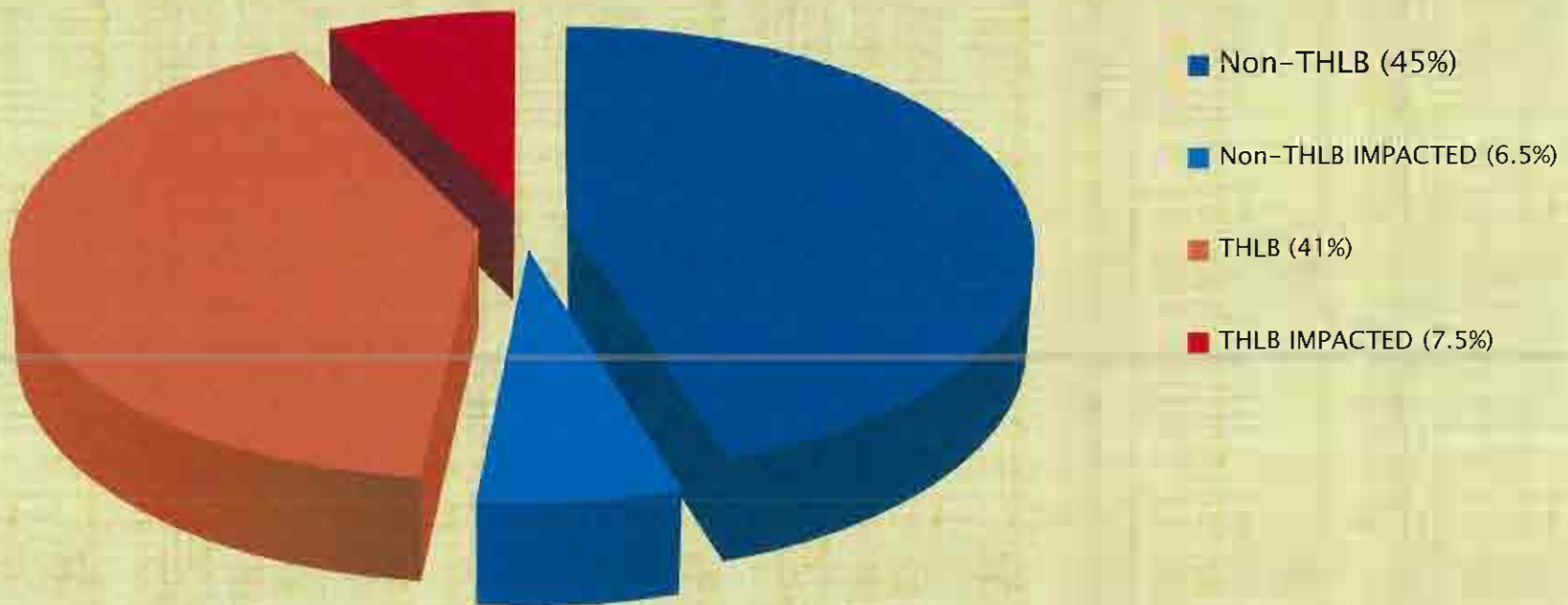


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Provincial Timber Supply Forecasts



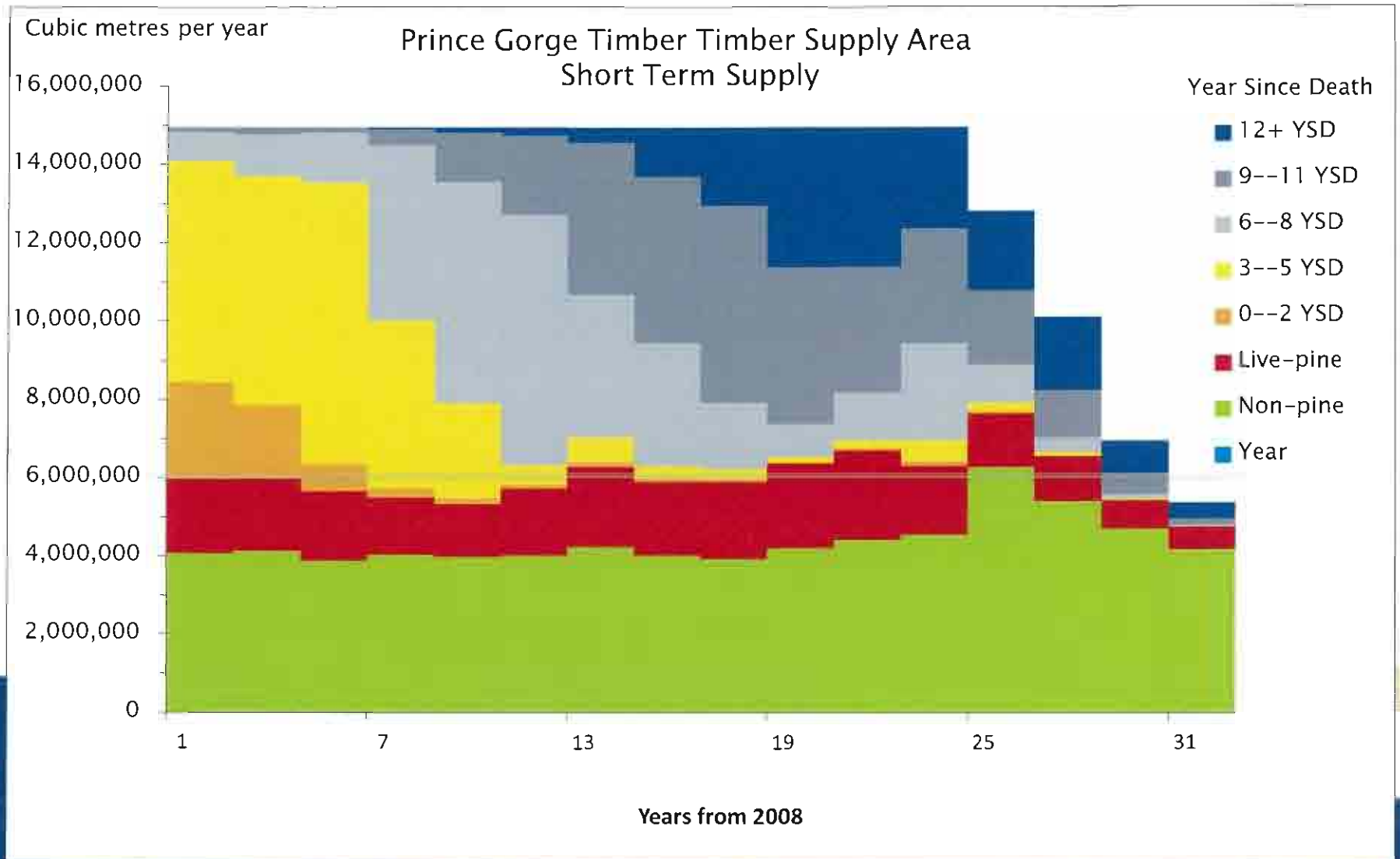
Provincial Timber Supply Forecasts



9.5 billion cubic metres of sawlog in BC at the start of the infestation

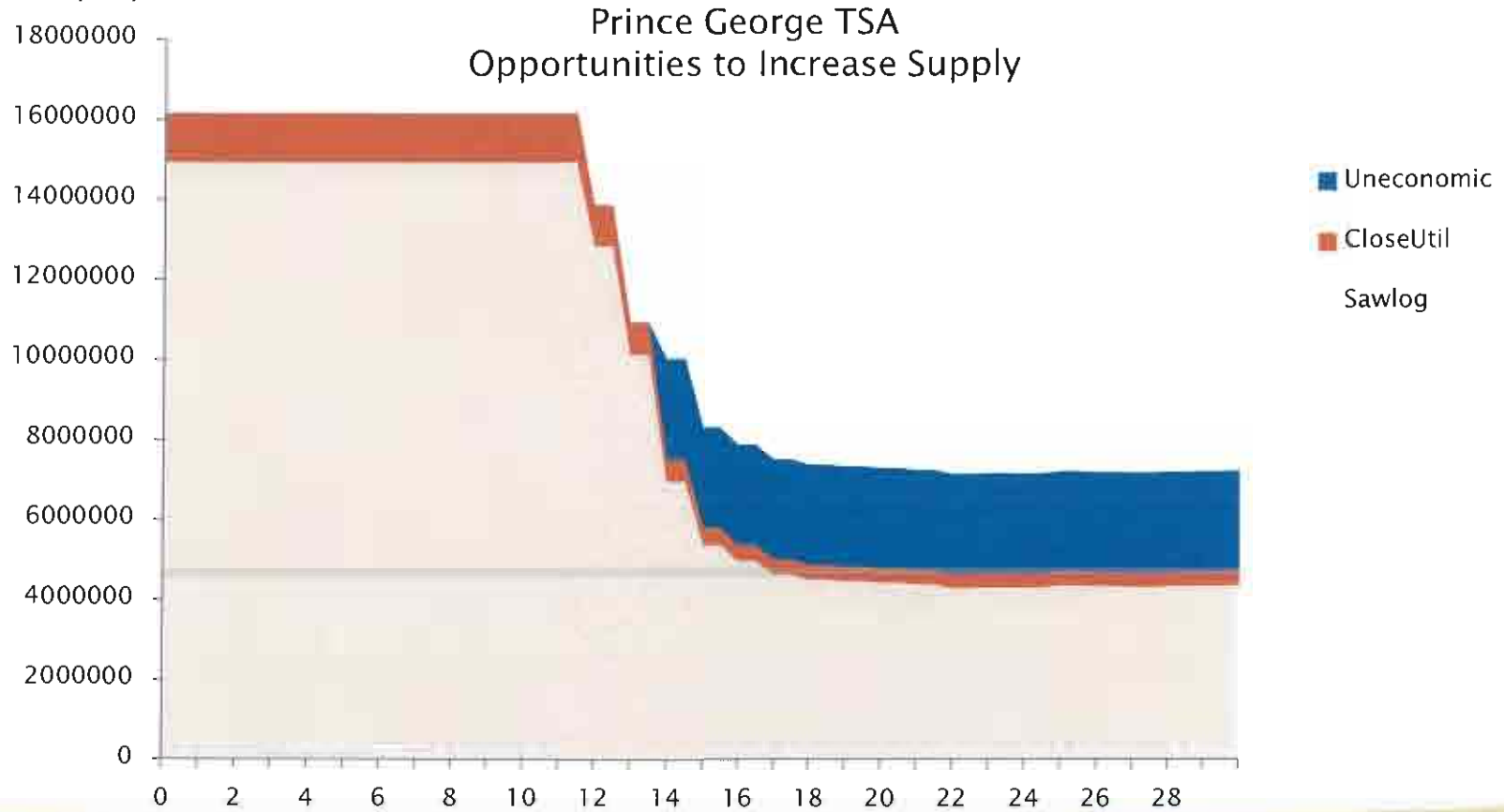
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Timber Supply Forecasts



Timber Supply Forecasts

Cubic metres per year



www.100m2008

Conclusions

- The beetle had impacted BC forests.
- Timber supply forecasts for BC reduced about 20% from pre-beetle levels for sawlogs.
- How quickly harvest declines depends on how long industry can use dead wood.
- Interior supply expected to start impacting harvest of sawlogs by about 2015.
- Still a lot of green trees in BC that can be harvested if economics are favourable.

Conclusions

- Short-term the opportunities to maintaining harvest lie in harvesting dead pine stands
- In the mid-term additional harvest opportunities lie in improved utilization of existing stands and in the harvest of stands historically considered uneconomic

AREA-BASED TENURE: ITS HISTORY AND ITS FUTURE IN BC

Considering the hot-button issue area-based tenures have turned into it would be easy for non-forestry experts to assume they were an entirely new concept. Nothing could be further from the truth. Area-based tenures have been around in one form or another for generations and there are many operating today across the province. Timber licences, tree farm licences, woodlot licences, licence-to-cut licences, SBFEP timber sale licences and community forest licences are all area-based.

By Ian McNeill

The majority of the AAC in British Columbia contained within area-based tenures today is on the coast where it amounts to 50 per cent of the total cut. By contrast, 89 per cent of the tenures in the BC Interior are volume-based. That could change if a provincial government proposal allowing holders of volume-based tenures to roll them over into area-based tenures (ABTs) goes forward.

A proponent and holder of an area-based tenures is Brian McNaughton, General Manager of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, who says that ABTs both encourage and reward better stewardship of the land.

"With area-based tenures, licensees have a bigger incentive to invest in the land in order to get higher quality wood and yields," he explains. Carving timber supply areas into ABTs can also lead to a better understanding of the health of the resource. "With area-based tenures you can do better inventory and analysis, whether it be about grizzly bear habitat, moose calving areas, winter range, stream classification, steep slopes and so forth. Area-based tenure holders will be familiar with all that and not just learning on the fly as they go from one side hill to the next. When you put all that in the hopper and look at sustainable forest management, not just for timber but for all values, I think you get a better product."

In addition to advancing stewardship and promoting knowledge of the land base for inventory purposes, rolling volume-based tenures over into ABTs has the potential to increase forest productivity, resulting in higher profits for licensees, contractors, and the people of BC through stumpage.

"From a forester's point of view, and from what I've seen, management in area-based tenures is better than in vol-

ume-based because you've got a boundary to work in and you know that if you invest in that area then there's a good chance you're going to get a return on that investment," McNaughton says. "You can do long-term planning, and if you do fertilizing and utilize enhanced silvicultural practices then maybe you can even convince government to increase your AAC over time. And you're more willing to do all that because your tenure is long-term."

Echoing these sentiments is TLA board member Matt Wealick, Chief Operations Officer of the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Forestry Company in the Fraser Valley and the manager of a number of First Nations woodlot licences.

"In the forestry world you don't have the next mountain or valley to go to anymore; the resource is even more limited, and if you're not managing it properly you are limiting yourself and the people of BC who own the resource," he says, adding that instead of looking for a new piece of land to log all the time, having an ABT in which you have rights allows you to maximize its potential, and in the case of First Nations, also manage it in a way that is consistent with your values.

"We already have aboriginal rights and title, but the addition

of an area-based tenure would provide us with an additional opportunity to protect our traditional territories," he says. "Right now we have three licensees working in our territory, and not one of them is managing those areas in a way that is consistent with either our cultural or recreational values."

Critics have argued that area-based tenures amount to little more than a "giveaway" to major licensees, but industry is in fact taking a cautious approach to ABTs because of the risks associated with being confined to a delineated area, says Jim Hackett, President of the Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association.



Photo: Stacie Woodall

We are more likely to invest in fertilizing and utilize enhanced silvicultural practices in an area-based tenure because the tenure is long-term.



With area-based tenures you can do better inventory and analysis, whether it be about grizzly bear habitat, moose calving areas or stream classification.

From a forester's point of view, management in area-based tenures is better because you've got a boundary to work in. You know if you invest in the area, there's a good chance you'll get a return on that investment.

"At this stage I don't have a consensus on this issue from the membership," says Hackett. "Some are in favor because they feel if they have an area-based tenure then they have the right of exclusivity, but it depends on what price they have to pay to get it. On its first salvo on this issue, the government asked licensees what percentage of their AAC they were willing to give up in order to acquire these more secure tenures, and that question has not been settled. It's entirely possible that after conversion to an ABT a given licensee won't be able to

sustain their existing quota in the operating area they get. Volume-based tenures allow licensees to move around."

That ability to move around is not one all licensees are sure they want to give up because, as TLA President Bill Markvoort has pointed out in the past, if your land is ravaged by fire or devastated by insects you can't just pull up stakes and move on. "If it happens in your area, it's your problem," he says.

The fact that licensees may be required to give up a certain amount of their tenure in order to acquire an ABT

is an important aspect of the debate that critics rarely acknowledge. The "take back" often means that licensees have to make do with less, says Jim Girvan of MDT Management Decision and Technology, but it also opens to the door to other potential licensees previously denied access to the resource, including local communities and First Nations.

"Typically the AAC allocation is reduced in a rollover on the grounds that area-based tenures provide more security to the holder, but the difference between them could create new opportunities for more community-based tenures and an overall diversification of the cutting rights," says Girvan.

"Fears that 'the majors' will reap the lion's share of the rewards following a rollover from volume to area-based tenure are also exaggerated," he adds. "Because of the take-back provisions that will likely accompany any roll over, consolidation of tenure in the hands of the majors will in fact be reduced allowing more community-based access to harvest."

One of the concerns critics have with the rollover proposal is that it will result in a kind of quasi-privatization, one that will result in vast stands of land being gobbled up by giant forest companies who will waste no time putting up barbed wire fences emblazoned with 'Keep Out' signs. If past is prologue, there is little to suggest that anything like that will take place.

"I disagree with that," says Jim Hackett of the ILMA. "It's still crown land. It's just another form of tenure that replaces the one that is there now." Currently, you don't see fences and 'Keep Out' signs around the ABTs on the coast.

Logan Lake provides a good example of a community in BC that has benefited from having an ABT and through its usage, enhanced rather than diminished public access, says Don Brown, Manager of the Logan Lake Community Forest, and current President of the BC Community Forest Association. In the early 2000's Logan Lake was a struggling town identified as having an "extreme wildfire hazard." It was issued a type of ABT in 2007—a community forest agreement—and "we are now considered a model for interface planning," says Brown. "We are recreation trail proponents, so not only do we want people out there [using the land] we are investing in improving the trail network," he says.

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A downside of area-based tenure is if your land is ravaged by fire or devastated by insects you can't just pull up stakes and move on.

Nobody would argue that ABTs will solve all British Columbia's tenure-related problems, but they at least represent a way forward, a different and perhaps better way to manage forest land.

And from a sustainability perspective, it's worth noting that exclusivity of harvesting rights within a given ABT does not mean licensees can relax environmental standards. "The same act applies; we will be protecting and conserving the same values," says McNaughton.

Matt Wealick of the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk First Nation agrees.

"You still have to meet all the criteria around forestry legislation," he says. "The only difference is that with area-based tenure you have an incentive to do a better job. I'm going to care more about silviculture because I want to harvest that same area in the future. With area-based tenures we'd be more willing to put money in for recreation, and we'd be able to do so in a way that is consistent with our values."

Nobody would argue that ABTs will solve all British Columbia's tenure-related problems, but they at least represent a way forward, a different and perhaps better way to manage forest land, enhance productivity, and help keep communities alive that have traditionally relied on the forest to survive.

"Ultimately, through the implementation of area-based tenures, the people of BC can look forward to better managed

forests," says Brian McNaughton. "And if through this you can mitigate timber supply issues, all of the communities that still have mills running will have a better chance of keeping them running."

Done right, tenure reform can benefit all stakeholders, says Logan Lakes' Don Brown.

"I have been involved in community forestry for almost 10 years, and in my 35-year career I have never seen a more well-accepted form of forest tenure by a such a large spectrum of our society including the public, stakeholders, government and private industry," he says. ♣

Import the Good, Not the Bad

A legitimate concern expressed by critics of tenure reform in British Columbia's Interior is even if area-based tenures are redistributed to smaller licensees, including communities and First Nations, there's nothing to prevent large forestry companies from acquiring these tenures over time and creating monopolies similar to those that exist on the coast.

At this stage, ABTs have not been defined as anything other than sellable and tradeable assets. However, what the forest industry, contractors and the people of BC need is more competition in the forest, not less. Monopolies are invariably a disincentive to investment, something the rollover from volume to area-based tenures is designed to promote in the first place. Also, in the forest industry in particular, monopolies tend to put downward pressure on contractor rates.

So far there is little in the proposed legislation that addresses the question of monopolies developing over time in the BC Interior if the rollover legislation passes. That needs to change, says TLA Executive Director Dwight Yochim, who suggests limiting the amount of tenure licensees may hold in a given area. "It's just a concept at this stage but perhaps there could be a rule that prevents any one company from owning more than a certain percentage of the AAC in any one region, say 20 per cent," he suggests.

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ILA Member &
Director

Cheryl Anderson

From: Gail Chapman
Sent: January-22-14 8:54 AM
To: Cheryl Anderson
Subject: FW: The 2014 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) program guides

From: Irvine, Shannon FLNR:EX [<mailto:Shannon.Irvine@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January 22, 2014 8:25 AM
To: Gail Chapman
Subject: The 2014 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) program guides

Hi Gale,

The 2014 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) program guides and forms are now available on the UBCM website <http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/community-safety/strategic-wildfire-prevention.html>.

One change of note is that local FireSmart activities undertaken directly by the local government are eligible to be claimed as part of the community contributions up to a maximum of 25% of the eligible project costs for the development of a CWPP or a CWPP update. This includes community involvement and public activities such as: establishing a FireSmart Board, conducting community assessments, and organizing and holding a FireSmart day.

Also I thought I should give you a heads up that the SWPI program funding is anticipated to run out at some point this year, and although a proposal for more funding will be put forth to the treasury board, we cannot guarantee that it will be approved. We are therefore encouraging local governments and community members to talk to their local MLA regarding the importance of Fuel Management and FireSmart and the need for funding to continue to ensure high hazard areas are treated and ongoing maintenance can occur.

Now would be a good time to consider updating your CWPP. Due to the MPB epidemic in the area as well as the revised Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment (WUI WTA) plots that came out in 2012, there will likely be more ground identified as being of high or extreme hazard since the RDBN CWPP was written in 2006. The process for identifying

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wildfire hazard polygons has improved since the completion of the RDBN plan with tools like the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis layer (PSTA) and the WUI WTA plots that are used in conjunction with forest inventory data available.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I will contact you soon to discuss further.

Regards,

Shannon Irvine, RPF

Fuel Management and Prevention

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Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations